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8 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Meeting held at 1430 on 4 December 1958, Main Treasury Building

SUBJECT: Impending Visit of the Russian B/V/Vityaz

Participants: A. Gilmore Flues, Assistant Secretary of Treasury
Admiral Alfred C. Richmond, Coast Guard
Captain G. R. Walsh, Coast Guard
Hyles J. Ambrose, Treasury
Matthew Harris, Treasury
Rear Admiral Alexander S. Heyward, Navy
Edmund J. Dornz, State
Mr. Lyman, Navy Hydrographic Office
Mr. Stanning, Coast and Geodetic Survey
Mr. Orison, National Academy of Sciences
Mr. Frutkin, USMC/KXX

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1. Mr. Flues announced that Mr. Lyman of the Navy Hydrographic Office had been designated coordinator for the impending visit of Vityaz to the Continental United States and to Hawaii, would have responsibility for all aspects of these visits and should be extended all possible cooperation by all agencies involved. It was requested that Mr. Lyman keep the members of the Port Security Committee advised regarding the visits and provide them with copies of pertinent communications dealing therewith.

2. Mr. Flues read letters from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Committee for Oceanography requesting that Vityaz be permitted to enter the harbor of La Jolla. These letters stated that this would greatly facilitate the exchange of information since many more of the scientists at Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla would be able to visit the vessel and discuss in Scripps Laboratories items of mutual interest with the Russian scientists. If entry to La Jolla was not permitted only a limited number of Russian scientists would be able to visit Scripps Institute and only a limited number of U. S. scientists would be able to visit Vityaz. Mr. Orison of the National Academy of Sciences requested that Mr. Roger B. Revelle, the head of Scripps Institute, be permitted to personally extend the invitation for the visit to La Jolla to the head of the Russian Scientific Group should the visit be authorized. Mr. Revelle would suggest to the Russians that several U. S. scientists make the voyage from San Francisco to La Jolla aboard Vityaz. It was agreed that subject to further concurrence by Navy and the Department of Justice (DJP-FBI) this entry would be permitted. It was agreed that this

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permission should include entry into the Port of San Diego if this became necessary due to inclement weather but that this would not be conveyed to the Russians. It was requested that Mr. Fovellie's invitation indicate that it would be necessary for the Russian Embassy to officially request the United States Government's permission for Vityaz to visit La Jolla. At that point Messrs. Orin and Frutkin were excused from the meeting.

3. Messrs. Doras and Ambrose reported on a meeting held that morning by the Subcommittee of ICIB concerned with this visit. Mr. Doras said that the 68 scientists aboard Vityaz would be issued individual passports, valid from 18 December to 15 February, which would permit their travel in the United States limited only by an understanding with the USSR Embassy that they be subject to the "host" agreement under which Russian scientists visit this country. The 66 crew members would be issued an overall crew visa which would limit them to the metropolitan area of their port of entry. It was suggested by Admiral Richmond that the crew might be restricted to the ship during their stay in La Jolla. A directive issued by ICIB concerning the security and surveillance of Vityaz personnel was then discussed, particularly with reference to a section indicating that materials taken off or aboard the ship by passengers and crew be under covert surveillance by electronic means and designating this responsibility to Coast Guard in cooperation with Customs. Admiral Richmond said that to the best of his knowledge, this type of surveillance would not be effectively implemented in a covert manner, and that any case it had previously been decided that this would not be a responsibility of Coast Guard. It was decided that the directive was probably in error and that the responsibility should be assigned to Customs, although admittedly not much could be done since it was the desire of State Department that the Russians not be subjected to any discernable investigation. Mr. Flinn directed that Mr. Ambrose clarify this matter with Customs and ICIB and advise the committee of their determination. In answer to a question by Mr. Flinn, Mr. Igusa said that he was not aware of any arrangements for him to proceed to Honolulu to coordinate Vityaz visit at that port. Mr. Flinn requested that arrangements be made for Mr. Igusa to proceed to Honolulu in time to coordinate the visit of Vityaz in that port. Mr. Doras stated that one or two representatives of the Soviet Embassy would travel to San Francisco and Honolulu to assist the vessel and her complement during her visit to these ports.

4. It was reported that Vityaz will arrive at San Francisco on 17 December 1958 and (if approval is given) will arrive at La Jolla on 21-22 December 1958 with the intention of departing prior to 25 December 1958. The tentative date of her arrival in Honolulu is now about the middle of January. The agents for Vityaz in San Francisco

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will be General Steamship Company and in Honolulu the Oahu Land and Rail Company.

5. SA/I/EE, OCB, OSI, and OO/S have been advised.

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